

PATIALUS, A NEW GENUS OF SUBFAMILY CIONINAE FROM INDIA AND THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES (CURCULIONIDAE: COLEOPTERA)¹

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(With a text-figure)

Patialus tecomella, a new species under a new genus of subfamily Cioninae has been described. The diagnostic features of the new genus have been included.

INTRODUCTION

During the course of extensive collections under the two 5-year PL-480 projects on Indian Curculionidae, we collected six species of subfamily Cioninae. One of the species marks the record of a new genus from this country. The important characters of the new genus, *Patialus*, and complete description of the new species, *tecomella*, are given in this communication. The Indian material of this subfamily is so far represented by eight species under the genus *Cionus* Clairv. (Klima 1934).

OBSERVATIONS

The subfamily Cioninae includes medium sized curculionids with five segmented funicle and concealed pygidium. The abdominal sternites 2-4 are curved backwards on lateral sides.

The subfamily includes four Oriental genera, out of which only *Cionus* Clairv. has been recorded from this country. The new genus has paired tarsal claws but carries a canal on the sternum that runs up to the middle of mesosternum. The prosternum of the two known genera with paired claws is not canaliculated. The prosternum is canaliculated in the genus *Stereonychidius* Morimoto which, however, falls in the category of the single clawed genera. A revised key to the Oriental genera, as modified from Morimoto (1962), is given

Patialus gen. nov.

Head large, coarsely punctate; frons broad; eyes large, ovate. Rostrum as long as pronotum. Antennae inserted at apical one-third of rostrum; funicle with segment 2 longer than 1. Prothorax transverse, with basal margin bisinuate. Elytra oblong; striae narrow; intervals much broader than

A KEY TO THE ORIENTAL GENERA OF SUBFAMILY CIONINAE

1. Tarsus with a single claw2
- Tarsus with paired claws3
2. Fore-coxae separated. Prosternum canaliculated *Stereonychidius* Morimoto
- Fore-coxae contiguous. Prosternum flat or depressed*Stereonychus* Suffrian
3. Prosternum canaliculated *Patialus* Gen. nov.
- Prosternum non-canaliculated4
4. Elytra with a sutural spot
Tibiae unarmed in both sexes; claws equal in female, inner claw shorter than outer one in male*Cionus* Clairville
- Elytra without a sutural spot.
Tibiae mucronate in male; claws of same length in both sexes*Cleopus* Stephens

striae. Hind femora not exceeding elytral apices, each armed with short tooth. Prosternal canal reaching up to middle of mesosternum. Abdominal sternite 1 longer than 2 and 3 combined. Male genitalia with aedeagal apodemes as long as aedeagus; endophallus with rod-shaped flagellum; phallobase with parameres. Female genitalia with coxites tubular; spermatheca with collum and ramus indistinct.

Type-species: *Patialus tecomella* sp. nov.

Distribution: India.

Patialus tecomella sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Head piceous, moderately shiny, closely punctate, covered with dark brown broad scales sparsely variegated with dull whitish narrow scales; frons with median shallow depression; eyes blackish with golden tinge, ovate. Rostrum rufus, stout, as long as prothorax, laterally compressed, gently widened after antennal insertion towards wedge-shaped apex; surface coarsely punctate, covered with dark brownish scales up to antennal insertion

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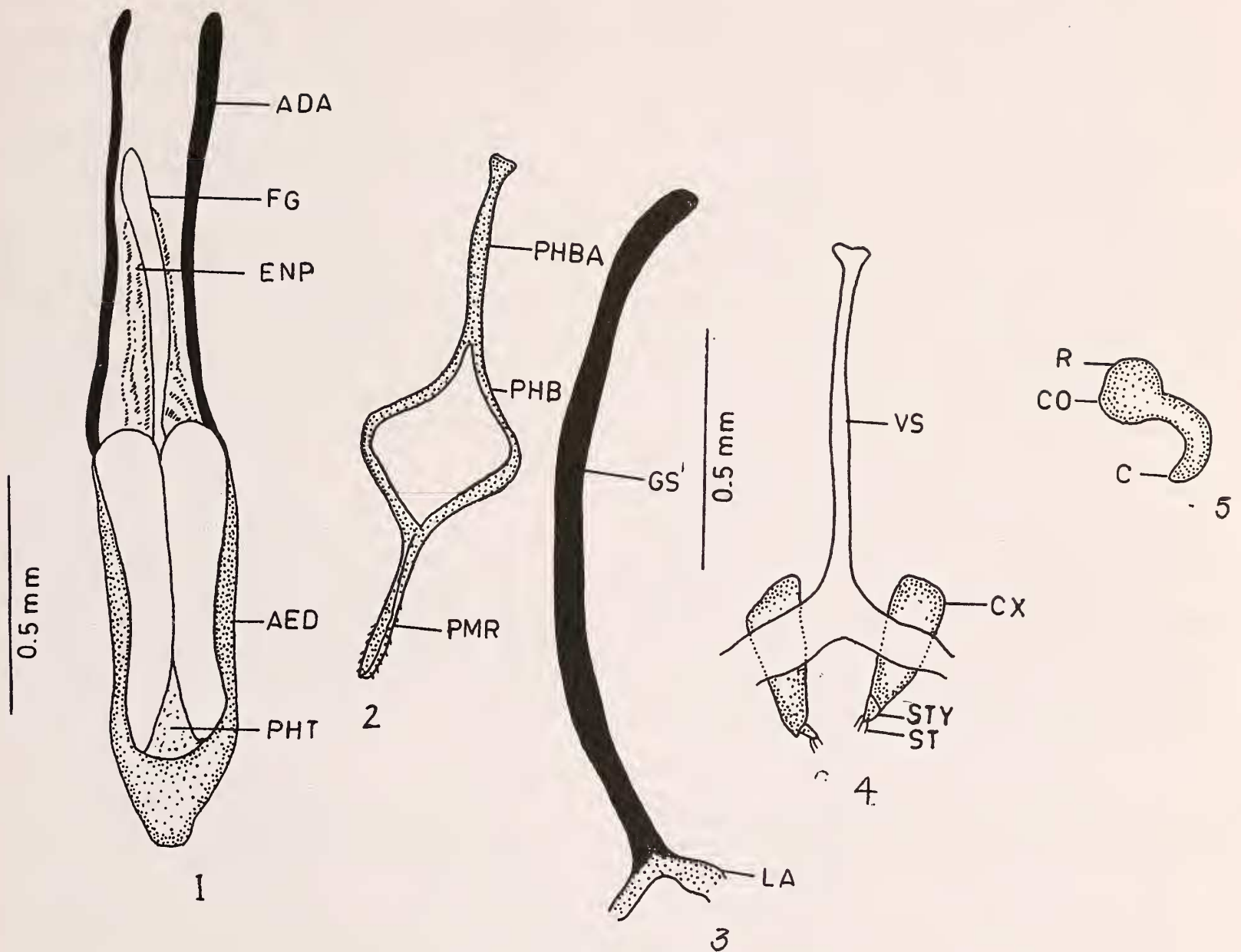


Fig. 1. *Patialus tecomella* sp. nov.

1-3. Male genitalia - 1. Aedeagus, 2. Phallobase; 3. Gastral spiculum, 4. Female genitalia, 5. Spermatheca.

thereafter sparsely covered with long setae. Antennae testaceous, inserted at apical one-third of rostrum; scape as long as funicular segments taken together, gradually clavate; funicle with segment 1 and 2 elongated, segment 2 nearly 1.5 times as long as 1, 3-5 as long as broad, all segments covered with suberect setae; club fusiform, finely and uniformly pubescent.

Prothorax piceous, subconical, broader than long, its sides moderately rounded, with constricted and arcuate anterior margin and bisinuate posterior margin; pronotal surface closely and coarsely punctate, transversely depressed in apical half; vestiture formed of broad median stripe of dark brown

scales sparsely variegated with blackish and white linear scales, laterally clothed with closely appressed whitish scales. Scutellum piceous, semicircular and clothed with dark brownish scales.

Elytra piceous, oblong, their dorsal outline convex, running parallel from base to behind middle in male and widening in female, shoulders prominent and roundly rectangular, with apices emarginate; striae narrow, formed by small deep punctures, each studded with a minute recumbent seta; intervals broad, flat, closely and coarsely punctate; vestiture formed of dark brown and light pale recumbent scales, intervals 3 and 5 with small patch of blackish scales.

Legs testaceous, densely covered with dull whitish linear scales; femora laterally compressed, each with a sharp tooth; tibiae slender, each with a fringe of brownish bristles; tarsi densely setose, hind tarsus with joint 1 somewhat longer than 2, 3rd bilobed and spongy beneath; claws long, curved and connate at base and free towards apex.

Thoracic sterna piceous, punctate, each beset with whitish linear recumbent scale; prosternum canaliculate, canal reaching upto middle of mesosternum and closed behind. Abdominal sternites piceous, closely and compactly punctate, uniformly clothed with whitish scales; sternite 1 longer than 2 and 3 taken together.

Male genitalia with aedeagus tubular, lateral walls thick; aedeagal apodemes as long as aedeagus; endophallus beset with rows of spines, flagellum shorter than each aedeagal apodeme. Phallobase ring-shaped; phallobasic apodeme shorter than each aedeagal apodeme, parameres as long as phallobasic apodeme. Gastral spiculum stout with dilated tip; lateral arms short and weakly sclerotized. Female genitalia with coxites tubular; styli 2 times as long as broad with tip beset with setae. Ventral spiculum

straight with tip dilated. Spermatheca with cornu curved; ramus and collum indistinct.

Measurements: *Length* Male body : 4.0 - 4.2 mm : rostrum : 1.1-1.2 mm. Female body: 4.2 - 4.5 mm : rostrum : 1.1-1.3 mm

Breadth: Male body : 2.3 - 2.5 mm : rostrum : 0.5 mm. Female body: 2.4 - 2.6 mm : rostrum : 0.5 mm

Holotype: MALE; INDIA; Punjab, Patiala (Punjabi University, Patiala, near Zoology Department); *Tecomella undulata*; 5. V. 1989; H.S. Rose. Paratypes: Males 3, females 4; same data as for holotype; Males 5, females 6; 12-18. IV. 1990; *Tecomella undulata*: Avtar Kaur. Material deposited in Zoology Department, Punjab University, Chandigarh.

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COPIDOGNATHUS EBLINGI, A NEW SPECIES OF HALACARIDAE (ACARI) FROM ANDAMAN ISLANDS (INDIAN OCEAN)¹

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(With eleven text-figures)

A new halacarid species, *Copidognathus eblingi*, collected among the thalli of *Acetabularia* sp. in the intertidal region of Ross Island (Andaman Islands), Bay of Bengal, is described. Its similarities and dissimilarities with the related species of the genus are discussed.

INTRODUCTION

Taxonomic researches on the marine mites of the Indian coast mention a few species names in the classified faunal lists prepared for meiofaunal ecology studies (Rao 1969, 1972, 1980, Rao and

Ganapati 1968, Rao and Misra 1983 a,b). The only biosystematic study of Halacaridae from the Indian coast is that of Rao (1970) from the interstitial sands of Visakhapatnam coast. Recently Sarma and Chatterjee (in press) reported the occurrence of *Copidognathus hartwigi* and *Atelopsalis pacifica* for the first time from Indian seas. The present paper describes a new species of the genus *Copidognathus*, *C. eblingi* collected among the thalli of *Acetabularia* sp. in

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